Ottawa Police Services Board

Special Meeting

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES 53

TUESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2022 10:30 A.M.

By Zoom

Present: B. Johnson, C. Meehan, R. King, D. Deans (Chair), D. Nirman, L.A. Smallwood (Vice Chair), R. Swaita

Others: G. Christie, Legal Counsel, K. Ferraro, Executive Director; D. White, Legal Counsel; Hannah Logan, Board Assistant, G. Wight, Ministry of the Solicitor General

Confidential Minutes 53
Ottawa Police Services Board
15 February 2022

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Chair Deans requested the Board's consent in adding two items to the agenda:

1) A request for external investigation; and,

2) An update on the status of Chief of Police Peter Sloly

That the Ottawa Police Services Board confirm the amended Agenda for the 15 February 2022 In Camera meeting.

CARRIED as amended

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. REQUEST FOR EXTERNAL INVESTIGATION

   Letter to Chair Deans from Chief Sloly, *dated February 14, 2022*

   Given the other matters requiring the Board's attention, legal counsel Glenn Christie suggested the Board proceed in approving the investigation and move on.

   That the Ottawa Police Services Board approve an external investigation by the Durham Regional Police Service Chief of Police into an internal complaint involving the Market Neighbourhood Resource Team.

   CARRIED

2. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF CHIEF OF POLICE PETER SLOLY

[redacted]

[redacted]

It was clarified that the Chair had a call with Chief Sloly at approximately 9:20 p.m. on February 14. The Chief had concerns related to CBC the National's story that was set to go to air on February 16. The Chair noted having had previous conversations with the Chief, in which he indicated being aware of the community's dislike for him, and he had in the past suggested the Chair just write him a cheque. The Chair raised that to Mr. Sloly during their call the previous evening. At the time, Mr. Sloly wanted to see through the operation underway. That morning however, he called the Chair back and had changed his mind.

[redacted]

Concern was expressed regarding institutional barriers faced by the Chief, and the need to ensure that the Board had done its due diligence to avoid signalling to racialized communities that the Chief was leaving under pressure. The Chair noted that in several conversations she had with him over the past year, the Chief had indicated finding the OPS very challenging to lead. Further, the Chair felt that Mr. Sloly had been considering a departure for quite some time. Although the situation was regrettable, the Chair noted that the Board needed to demonstrate solidarity and implement a structure to end the occupation.

[redacted]

The need to appear decisive was raised. It was noted that appointing an internal member to the role of Interim Chief would be problematic, given they would have been a part of the ongoing operation. Chair Deans recommended that the Board hire Matt Torigian for a short, contracted period. The Board had worked with him through their work with StrategyCorp, and Mr. Torigian had an exceptional reputation in policing. Chair Deans had briefly discussed this with Mr. Torigian, and he had indicated needing to consult with his wife.

[redacted]

It was decided that Deputy Chief Steve Bell would be asked to act as Chief in the interim.

In terms of approaches to securing a Chief on an interim contract, it was noted that the Board could consider borrowing a Chief from another municipality. The Board was concerned with the lack of flexibility in terms of timeline were they to borrow a Chief, and it was suggested that perhaps they appoint someone until the end of 2022 and the next iteration of the Board could select the next permanent Chief. [redacted]

[redacted]

Mr. Wight cautioned against bringing on Devon Clunis, as he did not feel that he had the operational experience that the Board required. Mr. Wight then suggested former OPP Commissioner Chris Lewis, and later suggested North Bay's Scott Todd, former Chief of Police of London Julian Fantino, and former Peel Regional Police Chief Jennifer Evans. He also noted Mark McGuire, the OACP's Executive Director, and Eric Joly, retired chief of York, as also worth considering.

[redacted]

Ministry Advisor Graham Wight had worked with Mr. Torigian in his role as Deputy Minister with the Solicitor General and did not want to appear as though he were endorsing him, however Mr. Wight noted that appointing Mr. Torigian would make sense.

A question was raised regarding whether the Board could simultaneously announce that DC Bell would be acting as Chief in the interim, and that Mr. Torigian would be joining the OPS on contract in the near future, to demonstrate that despite the Chief leaving the organization, the Board had a plan in place. The Chair advised that Mr. Torigian had not yet confirmed or been formally asked, and as such it was not yet possible.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

A point was raised regarding Mr. Sloly having struggled to be accepted within the organization given that he was considered an outsider, and concern was expressed that should Mr. Torigian or someone else be brought it, they would face similar treatment. However, the need for someone with a different perspective to bring an end to the demonstrations was noted. In conversation with Chair Deans the week prior, Deputy Chief Bell had advised that he would not have been doing anything differently if he were in charge.

The need for the Board to align on their communications was noted. The Board's spokesperson is its Chair, and as such all communications should be referred to her.

In terms of an interview and hiring process, it was suggested that the Human Resources Committee each contact one of the recommended individuals to determine availability. It was unanimously decided that Chair Deans would be given delegated authority to sign a contract with the selected individual.

Ministry Advisor Wight advised he would send a list of potential candidates and their phone numbers to the HR Committee, and copy the ED.

It was also decided the public meeting would be moved to 2:30pm.

That the Ottawa Police Services Board provide Chair Diane Deans with the delegated authority to enter into a contract with an interim Chief of Police.

CARRIED

[redacted]

CARRIED

3. BRIEFING ON INTELLIGENCE SURROUNDING DEMONSTRATIONS

**This item was postponed as representatives from the OPP and RCMP were no longer available.*

That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this item for information.

DEFFERED

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

MOTION TO MOVE OUT OF IN CAMERA SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.